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EDITORS DESK

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by Ron Kovacs

This week Atari attended the Winter CES in Las Vegas and will be once again attending the Winter NAMM show. We will have full reports from NAMM, Vancouver next week, and some coverage of CES this week. We have compiled reports from Atari press releases at CES.

Z\*Net Conference members are listed this week and we encourage you to support these systems. We are publishing the list in an effort to cut down on long distance calling by our readers. If these systems are local, call them, if you know of a BBS that is carrying our publication, please let us know so we can update our BBS listing.

Look for Z\*BREAK releases, if required from Vancouver during the week ahead.

Z\*NET ATARI NEWSWIRE

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ATARI RELOCATES ENTERTAINMENT DIVISION

Atari announced that it has relocated the firm's entertainment division to the Chicago Area. The relocation was made in conjunction with the appointment of Lawrence Siegel as president of the entertainment division. Siegel was previously vice president of software development for Atari. Atari's announcement of the new \$99.95 Lynx at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas is already having an impact on its

entertainment division. The new Atari Entertainment Division will be located at 330 North Eisenhower Lane, in Lombard, Illinois.

#### ATARI FIRES ALL SALES REPS

In a move that signals a major reworking of the marketing plan for Atari, the company fired all of their full-time sales representatives last week, and let most or perhaps all of their contracted rep firms go as well. This action follows the prior week's departure of sales VP Bill Crouch after a review of sales figures. Atari had only six full time staff representatives, and at least some of them are being considered for other positions within the company. The reasoning for the move is said to be that the reps are not generating sales beyond that which can be had more efficiently by sales through national distributors. Pacific Software is offering one-day shipping of Atari 1040STe's, monitors, hard drives, and software, and may very well carry the Mega STe when it enters the market in February. Atari plans to beef up its in-house sales support in order to "hand-hold" with personal service, albeit on the phone, the high-end dealers who will also be the initial primary outlets for the TT.

#### CES PRIVATE SHOWING OF THE ATARI PANTHER

There were no press releases about the new video game to come (shortly?) from Atari at this week's Consumer Electronics Show (see related coverage in this issue). Nevertheless, the PANTHER, said to be a 68000 CPU game box unrelated to the ST computer line, was shown privately by Atari's Leonard Tramiel to select developers during the huge Las Vegas entertainment product show. Details? Sorry, all we could get from a source within Atari about the Panther was "Nice kitty, kitty..."

#### ATARI TO ATTEND VANCOUVER SHOW

In Canada this week Atari was preparing for the Pacific Rim Computer and Communications Show held each year in Vancouver. Atari has transported its large booth out to the westcoast in anticipation of a larger show than previous years. Z-Net will be bringing you first hand reports from the show as well as interviews with some of the notable Atari personalities attending. Look for special Z\*BREAK updates next week and a full report in next issue.

#### SAM TRAMIEL TO "SPEAK" ON GENIE, COMPUSERVE CONFERENCES

Atari CEO Sam Tramiel is scheduled to be the featured guest in an online conference on GENie telecommunication service on January 30, and shortly thereafter, on a similar conference on COMPUSERVE. The GENie appearance will reprise Sam's conference of last year when a record number of people attended the live on-line question and answer session. It will occur as part of the regular Wednesday night "RT CONFERENCES" held each week at 10 PM Eastern, 7 PM Pacific time. Sam may tip his "listeners" to his plans for new products in the ST and game product lines for 1991. More live conferences are planned as well, with other notables from Atari including the head of the UNIX development group.

#### SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS FOR PORTFOLIO

Atari and third-party developers have unveiled 14 new software titles for the Portfolio. Software programs for the Portfolio include: Power Basic, by PC-SIG is a full-fledged powerful basic compiler that allows users to write application programs for the Portfolio that can be

tailored for specific needs. Portfolio Stock Tracker, from Lifestyle Software, keeps track of users stocks, bonds, annuities, options, cash, mutual funds, treasury issues, warrants, real estate, hard assets, autos and any other investments the user defines. The program allows for hardcopy printout. Atari Turbo Translator, from Organised Solutions, can translate approximately 1,000 phrases and 2,000 words into six languages (English, Swedish, German, Italian, Spanish and French). Personal Finance, from Bytesize Software, is an easy-to-use tracking program that allows input and sorting by category. This software package can also be used to record time/expenses for attorneys or anyone who must keep an hourly time sheet for billing. Scientific Calculator contains approximate scientific transcendental functions. With this program, users no longer need to carry a scientific calculator in addition to their organizer. Portfolio Bridge Baron, from Lifestyle Software, is for people who want to learn how to play Bridge or improve their game strategy. It includes 91 challenging deals as well as a variety of both elementary and advanced declarer strategies. Portfolio Wine Companion, from Lifestyle Software, allows users to catalog their wines, choose just the right wine for the occasion and track their wine cellar value and composition. This package has been a strong seller in the PC world. Portfolio Astrologer, from Lifestyle Software, uses the three main astrological calculation bases (Placidus, Koch, and Equal House), to provide a complete natal chart, influences, a planetary map, daily data and even the interpretation of the data. The program allows for hardcopy printout. Chess, has all the strategy and challenge the game is known for. Assisting in the design of this Portfolio game was the renowned chess and computer chess authority, David Levey. Hyperlist performs outline functions with main topic headings and subheadings. Hyperlist is ideal for anyone who must manage a tight schedule or prepare a presentation on short notice. The Portfolio Diet/Cholesterol Counter, from Lifestyle Software, lets you monitor your caloric intake as well as fat consumption for a total dietary evaluation according to official U.S. government RDA guidelines. U.S. Traveler's Guide, from Organised Solutions, is a complete guide to most major continental U.S. cities (including Canada). 24-Hour phone numbers, emergency services, restaurants, hotels, transportation, and entertainment listings are all at the user's fingertips. The Traveler's Guide is ideal for both novice and seasoned travelers. European Traveler's Guide, by Organised Solutions, is a complete guide to most major European cities. It offers the same features as the U.S. version of the Traveler's Guide and is certain to be as integral to European travelers as their passports. The Spell Checker/Dictionary/Thesaurus can be run in an interactive mode with the Portfolio's ROM-based editor or as a standalone program that can be used for a text-based file that was previously saved.

#### ATARI INCREASES DEALER SUPPORT

Atari Entertainment has announced that they will significantly increase its promotional activities and dealer support program during the first half of 1991. The specifics on the new creative and media campaign are being finalized but that the advertising for the first six months will focus on the use of cable and syndicated television and targeted spot radio in key markets as well as game and entertainment publications. First ads will highlight the Lynx's new retail price of \$149.95 and will feature Atari's offer of a free second game cartridge with each system purchased. The offer will also be tied to dealer support activities which will include counter cards with tear-off pads, dealer roto and newspaper advertising support, as well as radio. For dealers who don't have the floor space necessary to devote to the kiosks and pedestals, Atari will offer countertop and slotwall displays. These displays

feature self-running tapes that demonstrate the color, graphics and sound capabilities of the Lynx.

#### ATARI LYNX GAME LIBRARY AT 16

Rampage and Rygar, were among the five latest additions to the expanding library of single- and multiple-player games for the Atari Lynx. Rampage, from Bally has a suggested retail price of \$34.95. Road Blasters from Atari Games has a suggested retail price of \$39.95. Zarlor Mercenary, an Epyx original, will have a suggested retail price of \$34.95. Rygar, the 1989 coin-op Game of the Year from Temco, has a suggested retail price is \$39.95. Ms. Pac-Man, a coin-op smash hit from Namco, Ltd., suggested retail price is \$34.95. The other Lynx games at prices of \$39.95 include, California Games from Epyx, Paperboy from Atari Games, Gauntlet and KLAX from Atari Games. At \$34.95, Xenophobe from Bally Manufacturing, Todd's Adventures in Slime World from Epyx, RoboSquash from Atari Games, Blue Lightning from Epyx, Chip's Challenge from Epyx, Electrocop, an Epyx and Atari collaboration, and Gates of Zendocon from Epyx. For complete information on Lynx, Atari's home video game systems and growing family of video game software, contact your local video game dealer or call/write Lawrence Siegel, President, Atari Entertainment Division, 330 N. Eisenhower Lane, Lombard, IL 60148; (708) 629-6500, FAX (708) 629-6699.

#### NEW LYNX ACCESSORIES

Atari announced a complete line of Lynx accessories. The accessories, which were designed to enhance the portability of the handheld video game system, include a traveling case, a carrying pouch, a sun visor/screen guard, and a cigarette lighter adapter.

#### ATARI TO EXPAND LYNX GAME LIBRARY

With the 16 new releases, on-the-go video game enthusiasts will have more than 30 games available for their Lynx portable systems. Many of the 16 games scheduled for release take full advantage of the Lynx features, with some allowing up to eight players. The new titles, which have a suggested retail price of from \$29.95 to \$39.95, will be on dealer shelves during the first and second quarters of 1991 and include: World Class Soccer, an Atari Games original, Ninja Gaiden, 1990 Arcade Game of the Year from Techmo, Blockout from California Dreams, Xybots from Atari Games, Shanghai from Mediagenic, Warbirds an Atari Games original, NFL Football, Vindicators from Atari Games, Grid Runner an Atari Games original, Turbo Sub another Atari Games original, Checkered Flag, A.P.B., Scrapyard Dog, and Tournament Cyberball 2072, from Atari Games.

#### NEW GAMES AVAILABLE FOR 7800

Eight new action-packed video games for the Atari 7800 home video entertainment system are now available bringing the total to nearly 40 games. The new, full-color games include: Ikari Warriors from SNK, Planet Smashers, MotorPsycho, and BasketBrawl all Atari Games originals, Mean 18 Ultimate Golf from Accolade, Mat Mania Challenge from American Technos, Ninja Golf and Alien Brigade, Atari Games originals.

#### ATARI MIDI SOFTWARE AVAILABLE

There are more than 35 sequencing programs available for the Atari Computer systems. Some of these include: C-Lab Notator from C-Lab,

Pro-24 from Steinberg/Jones, Tiger Club from Dr. T's. Notation and printing software includes: Copyist DTP from Dr. T's and EZ Score Plus from Hybrid Arts. Library and Patch Editing software include: Super Librarian Pixel Publishing and GenWave from Interval Music Systems. The Educational platform is covered, including: Electronic Courseware Systems and The Ear from Steinberg/Jones.

Z\*NET NEWSWIRE

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#### NATIONAL INTRODUCES ETHERNET BOARDS

National's Computer Enhancement Group introduced three adapter cards that connect Apple Macintosh computers to 10BASE-T (twisted-pair) Ethernet local area networks early this week. These new products expand National's EtherNODE family of cards for PCs and Macintosh computers. Here is a brief listing of the new boards introduced:

##### EtherNODE-16NB-TP

A 16-bit NuBus adapter for all models of the Macintosh II

##### EtherNODE-16SE-TP

A 16-bit board for the Macintosh SE expansion slot

##### EtherNODE-32SE/30-TP

A 32-bit DMA board for the Macintosh SE/30 processor-direct slot (PDS).

#### AMERICAN VIDEO SUES NINTENDO

American Video filed a \$105 million damage lawsuit against Nintendo charging the Japanese companies with violations of antitrust laws. The suit states that Nintendo dominates the home video entertainment business with an 80 percent market share, and that it is using its monopoly power to cause the bankruptcy of the San Jose firm. In the complaint filed January 8, 1991, American Video stated that Nintendo ships 60 million Nintendo cartridges per year from Japan to the United States with a retail value of about \$3 billion.

#### COMMODORE ANNOUNCES CDTV PLAYER

Commodore announced the launch of the CDTV player, the industry's first compact disc-based consumer Interactive Multimedia player at the winter CES show. The new player is expected to be available through audio/video retailers, department stores and software outlets in the United States and United Kingdom in the first quarter of 1991. Applications currently planned include products from Disney Software, Grollier, Lucasfilm, Guinness, Psygnosis, Cinemaware, Accolade and Music Sales. The retail price of the CDTV player will be \$999 and CDTV titles should to range between \$30-100. This announcement was made by Commodore's Chairman Irving Gould and Nolan Bushnell, General Manager.

#### COMMODORE LAYS OFF 10%

Commodore announced earlier in the week that it intends to reduce the company's work force in the United States by about ten percent or 250 to 300 people of its 3,000 employees worldwide.

#### RECORDABLE COMPACT DISC UNIT

Kenwood will demonstrate a prototype for a home compact disc unit that will record on blank disks at the Winter CES Show. The LZ-13, a CD-WO (Write-once) unit that is capable of producing recorded disks from various sources. The disks can be played in any CD player in the same way as a conventional CD.

#### SIG HARTMANN JOINS LDW

Logical Design Works announced the appointment of Sig Hartmann as executive vice president. Most recently an executive vice president with Televideo. Before working with Televideo, Hartmann served in executive vice president positions with both Commodore and Atari Corp. Logical Design Works, Inc. is based out of Los Gatos and specializes in exporting computers and electronics into Eastern Europe.

#### Z\*NET NEW ZEALAND

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by Jon Clarke, Contributing Editor

This week we cover a few items of interest from hardware hacks to the greatest games from 1990. Also with the increased quality in PD software I have enclosed a partial list of Public Domain software houses in the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. I will conclude this listing in next weeks Z\*Net International On-line issue.

I would like some feed back from the readers if I am be so bold as to ask. Last year I did several items on communications. I have had several requests from people to continue in this vain about global communications in the Atari Arenas. How ever I need to know a few names there in the USA, Canada and Europe for the Public Data Network Carriers. If you are familiar with your local carriers can you please drop a note to me at the following address's.

GEnie : J.Clarke6  
CompuServe : 72000,3555  
UseNet : Jon\_Clarke@kcbbs.gen.nz  
STT@kcbbs.gen.nz  
72000.3555@compuserve.com.us  
Fido-Mail : Zone 3:1xx \_ALL\_SYSOPS Jon Clarke

or direct to the Z\*Net fnet conference and make it attention to Ron.

#### Top 10 Simulation games for year ending 1990

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in the United Kingdom.

Ranking	Title	Software Company
1	F19 Stealth Fighter	Microprose
2	Kick Off II	Anco
3	Sim City	Infogrames
4	Wayne Gretzky's Hockey	Mirrorsoft
5	3D Tennis	Palace
6	Greg Norman Golf	Gremlin

7	Fighter Bomber	Activision
8	Debut	Pandora
9	F29 Retaliator	Ocean
10	Cricket Captain	D&H Games

Top 10 Shoot-'em-Up games for the year ending 1990

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in the United Kingdom.

Ranking	Title	Software Company
1	Xenon 2	ImageWorks
2	Blood Money	Psygnosis
3	R-Type	Activision [my Favourite]
4	Thunder Strike	Millenium
5	Turrican	Rainbow Arts
6	Simulcra	Microstyle
7	Wings of Death	Thalion
8	Rotox	US Gold
9	Saint Dragon	The Sales Curve
10	Anarchy	Psygnosis

Please Note : Not all these games are available in the USA.

Atari ST Public Domain software houses across the 'pond'.

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This week letters A-P next week P-Z.

If you are looking for some public domain software, below is a list of some companies you may like to contact and see what they have available.

Name	Address	POST CODE	Country
Advent	Po Box 414 , Norwich	NR1 4NX	ENGLAND
Alpha Computing	32 Meadow Drive, Halifax, W Yorks	HX3 5JZ	ENGLAND
Atari Advantage	56 Bath Road, Cheltenham	GL53 7HJ	ENGLAND *
Awesomedemos	3 Mason Road, Seaford, E Sussex	BN25 3EE	ENGLAND
B Soft	33 Corsham Road, Calcot, Reading	RG3 5ZH	ENGLAND
Budgie UK	5 Minster Close, Rayleigh, Essex	SS6 8SF	ENGLAND *
Computer -	Ashlaw House , Euximoor drive		
Connections	Christchurch , Wisbech , Cambs	PE14 9LS	ENGLAND
Demo City	15 the Wynd, Dunshalt, Capar,Fife	KY14 7HE	ENGLAND
Demo Club	23 Alma Place , Spilsby , Lincs	PE23 5LB	ENGLAND
ElmSoft	PO Box 17 , Loughton , Essex	IG10 2EE	ENGLAND
Entertainment -	11 Calbourne Drive, Calcot,		
Soft	Reading, Berks	RG3 7DB	ENGLAND
Floppyshop ST	45 Provost Graham Ave., Aberdeen	AB1 8HB	SCOTLAND
Freaks P.D.L	29 LeapValley Cres,Downend,Bristol	BS16 6TQ	ENGLAND
Goodman -	16 Conrad Close, Meir Hay Eastate		
P.D.L	Longton,Stoke-on-Trent,Staffordshire	ST3 1SW	ENGLAND *
HAL Computing	15 Regents Terrace, Leeds	LS6 INP	ENGLAND
Kad-Soft	2 Ebor Paddock , Caine , Wilts	SN11 0JY	ENGLAND
LAPD	80 Lee Lane, Langley,Heanor, Derby	DE7 7HN	ENGLAND
Metroplis	38 Howick Park Drive , Penwortham	PR1 OLV	ENGLAND
MPH	10 Chandlers Court, Eaton, Norwich	NR4 6EX	ENGLAND
MT Software	14 Lanes End,Totland,Isle of White	PO39 0A1	U.K
PG 6 Publishing	Po Box 54, Stafford	ST16 1DR	ENGLAND *
Paradise Compt.	9 Westfield Crescent, Brighton	BN1 8JB	ENGLAND

\* = known to be suppliers international mail order PD. The turn around time via airmail is very quick, 10 days from NZ to UK to NZ.  
Please note : All these software houses will supply P.D software internationally. Remember to ask for a PD catalogue and prices.

Double your ST's joystick ports.

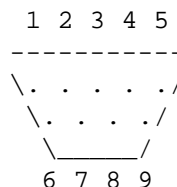
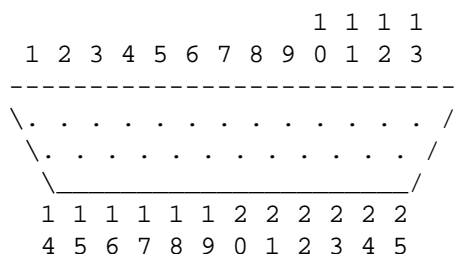
Some games on the ST like Gauntlet , Leathernecks and others require you to have four joysticks to play the game to the max. Below is a simple and easy way to do this.

All you need is : 1 x D25 plug like your printer plug [ST end]  
2 x D9 plugs [like the current joystick/mouse plugs]  
18 inches of multi-core cable. [Min. 6 wires]

Printer Plug [D25]	Joystick 1 [D9]	Joystick 2 [D9]
1	6	
2	1	
3	2	
4	3	
5	4	
6		1
7		2
8		3
9		4
11		6
24	8	
25		8

Looking at the Printer Plug [D25]

Looking at the Joystick Plug [D9]



[If you have any problems refer to your Atari Hand book for pin outs]

Hardware protection from Virus's for the ST's floppy disk drive.

If in doubt write protect it!

As we all know the safest way to stop a virus is to write protect our disks. But the only time we do not do this we catch a virus. Here is a hardware write protect switch, similar to what the Atari 8 bits used on the Atari 1050. This will work with any Atari drive internal or external but remember doing this project will void any and all warranties you may have on your Atari ST. I nor Z\*Net take any



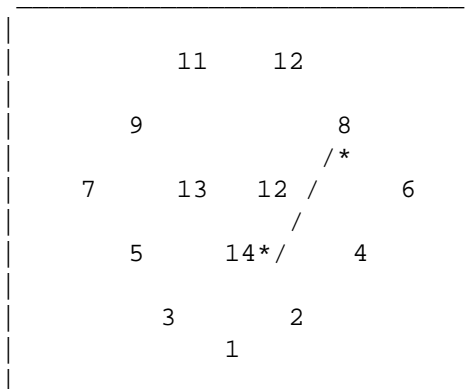
responsibility for this and or any damage caused to your system when proceeding with this project.

So please proceed with caution.

You will need the following : A DPDT Switch [smaller the better]  
About 6 inches of 2 core wire  
Soldiering Iron  
Soldier  
Drill  
Phillips screw driver  
Pliers.

Because there are so many different disk drive configurations out there I will not bore you with a 101 and one ways to remove the case/housing your drive, but only say this. If you have an internal drive \_BE CAREFUL\_ you do not disturb anything on the ST's motherboard.

Ok Lets do it .. Remove the case surrounding your drive. Now remove any metal casing there maybe. You might need the Pliers to twist the little metal tabs so it can be removed. Done that? Good now this is what we want to do. Find pins 8 and 14 on the Drive cable. Look below at the diagram for help to find them. When you locate them make sure you can indentify that they are really pins 8 and Pin Outs on Disk Drive Port 14.



Now we have gone this far we now need to find a place on the outside case we can drill a hole and fit our small switch. Do this with care as a wrong hole will be a horrible sight for a long time to come. Have the hole drilled, fit the switch into it. Make sure it is a flush fit and looks OK. Remove the switch. Solder the two wires to the plug and solder the other wires at the other end to pins 8 and 14 to the disk drive port or to the ribbon cable connector. (what ever is easier). Please make sure you are careful not to overheat any of the components !!!

Now mount the switch back into its hole and replace the system to how you found it. Make sure you have no spare parts left over! Time to try it. Place a \_blank\_ disk in the drive and select the format option from the desktop on your ST. Now depending which way you have wired the switch you should get an error saying the disk is write protected. To make sure you have done everything properly remove the disk and make sure it is NOT\_WRITE PROTECTED. Try again to see which way the switch should be for write protect and which position is un-write protect. I would suggest you mark these positions to save any future worries.

A thought for the day :

"PRACTICE SAFE COMPUTING! WEAR A WRITE PROTECT TAB!" J.Towler 1989

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## Saudi Arabia, Desert Shield and the State of Atari

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by Scott Lapham

Some of you may remember me from the articles I wrote on the WAACE AtariFest this past October. Well, I'm back with another article. This time about a trip I took to Saudi Arabia from November 13th to December 21st. No, I'm not in the military and I didn't go there for a vacation. (Just for the record, I did my time in the military when I was drafted in 1969.) I do work for the U.S. government but as a civilian. (Yes, there are civilians being sent to Saudi Arabia.) Luckily, though, I had a specific job to do and was able to do it and come back in a relatively short time. The following are some observations I made while there regarding Saudi Arabia, Operation Desert Shield and our favorite computer. (Please don't sue me if I got any facts wrong; I was only there 5 weeks and didn't know how reliable my sources were!)

### Saudi Arabia:

I must admit, Saudi Arabia is a lot different than any other country I've ever visited. And of the 20 years I've worked for the government, I've spent 16 years at locations other than the United States. Like most places, there are good and bad sides to life in Saudi Arabia. (Although what I consider bad might not be what the average Saudi (male) believes.) As you probably know, women there have it a bit tougher than our women. Not only can't they drive cars or wear western style clothes, they have to sit in the back of the bus on public transportation, can only sit with men in restaurants that have special "family" rooms, and have to have written permission from a male member of their family to travel outside of the country. I imagine it would take some getting used to if an American woman married a Saudi and moved there. But then there is the "reverse tax" that Saudi citizens enjoy. There is no federal tax, state tax, sales tax or any other tax that I know of in Saudi Arabia. Instead, the Saudi government gives their citizens money every year. (Hence the term, "reverse tax".) It works out to about \$30,000.00 per family member per year. Is this incentive to have children or what? (I may be wrong, but I think only male family members get this bonus.) It's a way of spreading around the vast revenues oil brings in annually. (Currently about \$300,000,000.00 per DAY!) I think I'm in the wrong business! Please, if there are any Saudi citizens out there reading this, I'm not saying Saudi Arabia is a bad place to live. It's just different.

### Operation Desert Shield:

The troops seem to be in very good spirits, considering what the future may hold for them. They're pretty confident too, that no matter what happens, we'll come out on top and quickly. And, as has been reported in the news here, a lot are getting impatient and feel we should do something or get out. I guess only time will tell.

One of the reasons spirits are so high over there is the mail. They get tons of it every day. And not only from the people they know. They get an unbelievable amount of mail addressed to "Any Soldier". And believe me, it's appreciated. Three cheers to all of you out there that have taken the time to write to people you've never met. It means a lot to them to know that America is behind them. I saw dozens of posters and

banners that were made by grade school classes, scout troops, college fraternities and sororities, etc., etc. They hang on the walls in chow halls, offices, hallways or where ever they'll fit. They're a constant reminder that they are being thought of back home. If you've been thinking of writing to "Any Soldier" and haven't yet, please do. It doesn't take long and it'll mean a lot to a guy or girl far from home.

A note on the American military versus the Saudi military: It was learned while I was there that a Saudi officer, equivalent in rank to a U.S. Army/Air Force colonel (O-6), makes more money than an American 4-star general (O-10). Plus the Saudi gets a free car (usually a Mercedes) and a free house (usually BIG). Oh well, money and status symbols aren't everything.

#### ATARI in Saudi Arabia:

Believe me when I say that Atari has a strong presence in Saudi Arabia. At least in the parts that I was in (Riyadh, mostly). Any shop that sold any type of electronics, sold Atari products. There were "Atari only" stores. The Fuji symbol was everywhere. OK, the prices aren't so hot for some items, but we're talking about one of the richest countries in the world. What do they care about prices? I saw more Atari computers there than all the other brands put together. And I mean the entire line from 2600 game machines to Mega4's and even Atari PC's.

Here's what they cost in a very large electronics store in a very large (200 plus stores) mall in the capital city of Riyadh:

Product Name	Cost		Note
	Rials	Dollars	
2600	145	38.66	Includes 64 games*
2600	220	58.66	Includes 192 games**
65XE	550	146.66	Includes 2 programs
65XE	390	104.00	With Arabic/English keyboard
520ST	1990	530.66	Includes 25 programs***
1040ST	2990	797.33	Includes 25 programs***
Mega2ST	5400	1440.00	
Mega4ST	7200	1920.00	
SM124	650	173.33	
SC1224	1500	400.00	
PC3	4400	1173.33	With color monitor
Portfolio	1530	408.00	
32K Card	300	80.00	
64K Card	480	128.00	
128K Card	730	194.66	

Above is using 3.75 rials to 1 dollar.

None of the ST's came with monitors.

\*-These come in a normal looking cartridge that has 8 dip switches that you set to choose which of the 64 games you want.

\*\*--You don't need a cartridge to play these games. All 192 games (all different) are BUILT IN to the machine!

\*\*\*-All 25 programs come in identical packaging. Hmmm.

As you can probably guess, all the "freebies" with the 2600's and ST's are questionable as to their legal status. (Bet you didn't even know there was 192 different games for the 2600!)

As these machines, cartridges and programs are sold out in the open

almost anywhere, I suspect copyright laws are not enforced in Saudi Arabia. (Somebody correct me if I'm wrong.) You can, though, buy legal copies of programs for Atari computers in most stores. It's just that the "other" ones are so much cheaper and easily available. (No, I didn't buy any.)

The sales people I talked to are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their STe's and TT's. They said they'll sell them as fast as they can get them in. No matter what the price.

That's all I've got for now. Glad to be back in the good old USA. And hope to be able to write another article about Atari real soon. This is fun.

Cheers.

#### Z\*NET CONFERENCE MEMBERS =====

The following list is a compilation of the bulletin boards currently listed in the Z\*Net Online Conference available in the FoReM FNET system. These boards also carry the weekly releases in the conference which we send out in.

If these systems are local to you, please support them by calling today!

NODE	- BOARD NAME -	- NUMBER -	- CITY, STATE, COUNTRY -
-----	-----	-----	-----
5	Mile High	303-431-1404	Denver, CO
97	Big Foot	206-726-9739	Seattle, WA
133	Hologram Inc.	201-727-1914	Old Bridge, NJ
135	Batcave BBS	215-755-0166	Philadelphia, PA
153	The Temporal Fixation	609-423-4865	Paulsboro, NJ
168	C.C.B.B.S.	609-451-7475	Bridgeton, NJ
171	The Outland	403-475-9588	Edmonton, AB, Canada
204	Full Moon: FoReM Spt	508-752-1348	Worcester, MA
209	Ez STreet	609-723-2796	McGuire AFB, NJ
224	Flash BBS	314-275-2040	St. Louis, MO
266	The Patch House	212-824-5512	New York, NY
300	ST.AT.U.S. BBS	203-528-7693	East Hartford, CT
304	The Twilight Zone	407-831-1613	Longwood, FL
322	ACEY BBS	509-966-8555	Yakima, WA
391	HyperSpace I	803-576-6212	Spartanburg, SC
401	HyperSpace III	404-452-7488	Atlanta, GA
410	ACE Information	513-233-9500	Huber Heights, OH
423	White Runes/Tinuviel	303-972-8566	Littleton, CO
429	MASATEK	213-518-9524	Torrance, CA
437	STinger BBS	805-834-9405	Bakersfield, CA
440	Realm of Chaos	602-789-9426	Phoenix, AZ
441	The Boiler Room BBS	313-562-1142	Detroit, MI
448	Crash ST BBS	604-299-5111	Burnaby, BC, Canada
467	Sherwood Forest	718-522-0768	New York, NY
469	The Outer Region BBS	303-766-2778	Aurora, CO
477	SST BBS	702-645-6185	Las Vegas, NV
489	STeal Your Face	201-920-7981	Brick, NJ
500	Battlezone	301-969-0621	Glen Burnie, MD

504	Media 2000	301-360-0397	Pasadena, MD
505	Atari West BBS	604-272-5888	Richmond, BC, Canada
513	The Forgotten Realms	615-833-4971	Nashville, TN
523	Leftover Hippies BBS	416-466-8931	Toronto, ON, Canada
532	Bill's BBS	403-461-7546	Edmonton, AB, Canada
534	Pinky's House/Horror!	415-531-1576	Oakland, CA
538	The Dragon's Lair	803-788-7806	Columbia, SC
546	Bear Swamp BBS	513-644-0714	Marysville, OH
556	Thieves Guild	301-894-8516	Suitland, MD
574	Asylum	505-897-4306	Albuquerque, NM
593	Z*Net Online	908-968-8148	Middlesex, NJ
594	Excalibur	719-596-4196	Colorado Springs, CO
596	Super 68	206-859-9644	Kent, WA
602	Cartoon Haven	719-574-7406	Colorado Springs, CO
616	MoDeM MaDnEsS	516-295-3827	Woodmere, NY

If your system is interested in joining this conference, leave email to me through any of these systems and send it to Node 593. Set up your base today and let us know to add you. The conference code is 20448 and again the lead is Node 593.

#### PUBLIC DOMAIN UPDATE

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by Keith MacNutt

KXPSET V4.2

by Bill Aycock

2310 North Elm ST.

Greensboro, NC 27408

In this weeks article I'd like to cover a printer utility that I found on a local BBS about a month ago. At that time I had just upgraded from a 9 pin printer that I had use for about 4 years on the 8 bit and then on my two ST's, to a PANASONIC 24 pin KX-P1124. Looking through the manual I began to realize that even though the printer was easy to use and set up, there must be a utility that could make the job even easier.

KXPSET was just the program I had been looking for. It was not only easy to use, but took up very little memory (about 23k if used as a accessory). At a glance I saw programmable features I didn't even think my printer could do.

On the opening screen, all features are laid out in columns and with similar features grouped together. Under the first column and in the first box is the NLQ on and off feature. The default for this is "neither" so that printers without NLQ could also be supported.

Super/Subscript section lets you print in normal, Superscript or Subscript. In the later two the printing is about 2/3 as tall as normal print.

Font selection allows you to choose one of the built in fonts which include bold ps, courier, prestige, sans serif or script. For those printers that don't support these fonts, a default feature can be used instead.

Next comes setting the pitch, with a choice of 6 possible values. The settings are 10,12,15,17,20 or proportional spacing.

Line spacing sets the amount of paper feed between lines, with settings of 6 or 8 lines per inch or set the amount in 60ths, 180ths, or 360ths of an inch.

Print options contain settings for italics, emphasized, double strike, double wide and double high.

Next comes a choice between uni or bi-directional printing. Uni-directional will give you better quality printing but be slower than bi-directional.

Half speed mode setting may also improve output and make the printer a lot quieter.

Re-initialize sends a command to the printer setting it to the same values as if you just turned it on. This feature is nice in that if you just ran another printer program you may have left the printer in an unknown state.

Form feed does just that, form feeds your paper to insure that you will start on a new sheet of paper.

The word processing option sets the printer into special modes that will:

- 1) center each line
- 2) justify by stuffing each line with spaces so that all lines are of equal length
- 3) right align which pushes each line to the far right

There are included in the next feature, a list of 3 pre-defined or 6 custom slots that can be pre-programmed and saved for later use. These slots save the users settings under a title, and can contain different selections for each one.

Page setup button brings up a dialog box containing individual on/off boxes to set page length, skip over perforation and right and left margins. Beside each of these features is a type in line that allows the user to set the parameters for each function. The lower half of this menu contains settings for

- 1) no tabs
- 2) tabs every.. up to 32 horizontal or 16 vertical tab stops
- 3) set these tabs, allows you to pull up a screen to enter these settings.

The final step consists of clicking on the send commands button which takes you back to the desktop if you have set the program up properly. If not, just review your settings and make the necessary changes before exiting. A final note, if you have generated any new preselected definitions in the Custom setup boxes, please save these to the program before you exit or they will be lost.

Overall this has got to be one of the best printer setup programs I've come across to date. Not only will it work on 24 pin, but most Epson FX compatible 9 pins should also be able to use this program. If you are using a 9 pin printer the documentation states all the features the 9

pins will not support.

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